

REMARKS

At the time the Final Official Action was mailed on June 3, 2005, claims 1-17 and 92-115 were pending in the above-identified application. In the Final Official Action, the Examiner allowed claims 92-109, rejected claims 1-6, 10-15, and 110-115, and objected to claims 7-9, 16, and 17. Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejections, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Therefore, to speed the present application toward issuance, Applicants have amended the claims as discussed below to place the present application in condition for allowance. It should be noted that Applicants have amended the claims without prejudice as Applicants intend to file a continuation application to pursue the presently rejected subject matter.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 7, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the recitations set forth in claims 4-7. Claims 2, 3, 8, and 10 now currently depend from amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 8, and 10 are presently in condition for allowance.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 9, Applicants have amended claim 9 to place it in independent form and to include the recitations of claims 1 and 4-6. Applicants have further added new claims 116-118, as depending upon independent claim 9, to include the recitations set forth in claims 2, 3, and 10. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 116-118 are currently in condition for allowance.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 16, Applicants have amended independent claim 11 to include the recitations set forth in claims 14-16. Claims 12 and 13 currently depend from claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-13 are currently in condition for allowance.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 17, Applicants have amended claim 17 to place it in independent form and to include the recitations set forth in claims 11, 14, and 15. Applicants have also added new claims 119 and 120, as depending upon independent claim 17, to include the recitations of claims 12 and 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 119-120 are currently in condition for allowance.

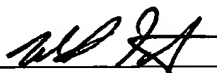
In view of the amendments discussed above, the cancellation of claims 4-7, 14-16, 18-91, and 110-115, and the addition of new claims 116-120, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims 1-3, 8-13, 17, 92-109, and 116-120 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance at the earliest possible date.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: August 3, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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